## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-14 /103 W

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R 251015Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4642
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USIA WASHDC

**UNCLAS RABAT 1171** 

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SOPN, MO

SUBJECT: FURTHER MOROCCAN REACTION TO NYT ARMS SALES EDITORIAL

REF: (A) RABAT 770 (NOTAL), (B) RABAT 1093.

1. EMBASSY HAS ALREADY REPORTED STRONG REACTION OF MOROCCAN MEDIA TO NYT EDITORIAL "WRONG COIN FOR MOROCCO" WHICH APPEARED IN PRO-GOVERNMENT MAROC SOIR FEB 6 (REF.A) AND LETTER TO TIMES BY INFORMATION MINISTER KHATTABI WHICH WAS REPRINTED IN ALL PRO-GOVERNMENT MEDIA (REF. B). NOW, AL BAYANE, DAILY ORGAN OF PARTY OF

PROGRESS AND SOCIALISM (COMMUNIST) HAS ADDED OWN COMMENT. UNDER TITLE "FIRST FRUITS?" AL BAYANE WRITER STATES "THIS APOLOGY (IN FAVOR OF THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT) IS NOT AN ISOLATED EVENT. IT IS PART OF A PRECISE AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD THE MAGHREB ... WHICH IS MORE AND MORE FAVORABLE TO ALGERIA. DIDN'T SOME POLISARIO 'REVOLUTIONARIES' RECENTLY VISIT THE U.S AND ESTABLISH A GOOD NUMBER OF CONTACTS WITH THE PRESS? AND NOW, THE U.S. HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CHILL WHICH HAS COME OVER RELATIONS BETWEEN FRENCE AND ALGERIA. ISN'T AMERICAN IMPERIALISM PROFITING FROM THE VACUUM LEFT BY (THE WITHDRAWAL) OF FRENCH IMPERIALISM IN ALGERIA, SO RICH IN PETROLEUM RESOURCES?" IF IT IS A CHOICE BETWEEN THE SAHARA AND OIL, MUSES AL BAYANE ... "WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?"

2. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CALL DEP.'S ATTENTION TO LETTER APPEARING IN INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE OF FEB. 17, SIGNED BY RABAT REUTERS CORRESPONDENT STEPHEN HUGHES, WHICH IS POINT-BY-POINT REFUTATION OF SEVERAL CONTENTIONS MADE BY NYT EDITORIALIST. TEXT BEING SENT BY SEPTEL.ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

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